

1/ Category: Multiple Areas

Impaired Driving
Speed Related Collision
Occupant Protection
Intersection Collision

2/Entry Name

Chief Mike Davis, Gig Harbor Police Department

3/Contact Information

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4/ The Program and Effort.

In the state of Washington the majority of our law enforcement agencies are supported by less than 20 commissioned officers. Agencies are continually looking for ways to meet the public needs and balance budgets to support their missions. Often traffic is a low priority to an agency when the funding is limited and equipment is not always available.

In June of 2004, Mike Davis was appointed the new Chief of the Gig Harbor Police Department. Historically, traffic enforcement and traffic safety was not a high priority in the city. Chief Davis had different ideas. He know from his 20+ years in law enforcement, a traffic division was a true avenue to increasing the city's safety in all areas of concern

Chief Davis quickly went to work; his city was experiencing a tremendous amount of growth providing commercial services to a very large rural population surrounding the city. During his first few months in office, most of the citizen complaints revolved around traffic safety issues, ~ speeding vehicles and traffic congestion. Although traffic was a top priority to the Chief, through his leadership the citizens and city council soon followed his lead. The new Tacoma Narrows Bridge was in the process of being built and the opening was sure to increase traffic growth and congestion in the surrounding area.

Under Chief Davis, the city now as a full time traffic unit and has made substantial growth into the community through enforcement and education. From November 2006, to date, pro active efforts have lead to the following successes in Gig Harbor and the surrounding area:

- Implemented a officer trading card program aimed at developing strong relationships with local youth and at the same time provide traffic safety information on the back of each trading card

- Received grants from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to purchase flashing school zone lights on Rosedale in front of Gig Harbor High School and Discovery Elementary. Also provided one set of the flashing lights to Evergreen Elementary which is located in Pierce County on the south end of the Lower Peninsula.
- Received a grant from the Washington Traffic safety Commission to lease a police motorcycle and purchase associated equipment. Sent two officers to motor school where they both received certification
- Passed an ordinance establishing a traffic safety fund allowing the recovery of the personnel costs associated with processing DUIs. Utilized this funding source to augment overtime expenses on special traffic safety projects
- Established a GPS tracking system for all traffic accidents allowing analysis of potential hot spots and engineering issues creating traffic collisions. This allows the tracking accidents by time, location, age of the drivers and whether it was injury or non-injury. The traffic unit monitors the patterns and on a regular basis meets with the city road crew and engineering staff to address issues that may be contributing to these accidents
- Expanded participation in the Tacoma/Pierce County DUI task Force. Chief Davis agreed to serve as the Chair in 2005.
- Gained approval from the city council to purchase a mobile speed sign trailer. Recently established a Citizen on Patrol (COP) program and currently have a volunteer who takes the speed sign out each week to identified speed problem areas. He actually sits with the sign and takes the license plates down on vehicles that pass through the radar going 15 or more miles over the speed limit. Chief Davis follows up with a courtesy call warning the registered owners of the vehicles to slow down.
- In 2006 received grant money from Washington Traffic Safety Commission to purchase two Lidar units and one radar unit. With the approval of an officer assigned vehicle program (OAVP) in 2007 received approval from our city council to purchase moving radar for seven new patrol vehicles. All of GHPD patrol vehicles now have moving radar. The city now loans the local WSP troopers our Lidar unit on a regular basis
- In 2006 received a traffic safety grant from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs to purchase a digital in car video system. Subsequently received support from the city council to purchase digital in car video systems for all our patrol vehicles allowing more efficient and effective DUI investigations and safer traffic stops
- In 2006 updated the departmental Web site to include a electronic traffic complaint form that citizens can submit from their homes
- During the last two years officers have written over 100 school zone speeding tickets
- Gig Harbor Police Department hosted a Pierce/Kitsap County DUI Joint emphasis patrol during the summer of 2007 resulting in the arrest of 17 DUIs in one evening

- In 2006 gained support and approval of a 1.0 FTE at mid-year in 2007 allowing the department to appoint a "Traffic Officer" in the spring of 2007.
- In 2007 installed the first stationary speed signs on Pioneer Road heading down hill into the Harbor basin. These signs have received very positive feedback from the community on this speed calming project. The council recently approved the purchase of two more of these units to be installed in 2008.
- Currently the departmental goals and objectives identify initiatives that will expand and improve our traffic safety program each year utilizing the three Es of traffic safety; engineering education and enforcement

This list of initiatives has resulted in an increase in a number of performance measures that relate to traffic safety (see spreadsheet below). When 2007 YTD traffic safety performance measures are compared to 2006, Chief Davis and his officers have **increased criminal traffic citations by 141**, increased in infractions written by 538, an experienced an increase of **DUI arrests by 37** and the bottom line is a **decrease in 2007 YTD traffic accidents by 30**.

Category	November 2007					
	November 2006	November 2007	Change	YTD 2006	YTD 2007	Change
Calls for Service	351	526	175	3841	5129	1288
General Reports	172	159	-13	1520	1713	193
Criminal Traffic	7	23	16	82	223	141
Infractions	81	96	15	921	1459	538
Criminal Citations	0	27	27	8	224	216
Warrant Arrests	6	11	5	65	96	31
Traffic Reports	17	16	-1	188	158	-30
DUI Arrests	3	6	3	33	70	37
Misdemeanor Arrests	30	46	16	347	371	24
Felony Arrests	11	12	1	117	106	-11
FIR's	2	8	6	21	53	32

Chief Davis has been a leader in Traffic Safety outside of his city; he has been the Chair of The Pierce County DUI and Traffic Safety Task Force for the past three years. During his tenure, he has been responsible in leading the group to phenomenal successes.

This Task Force has continued to conduct monthly DUI and speed patrols without overtime funding from the WTSC. This past year, the county has shown a reduction of 20 deaths compared to the same time last year. TWENTY LIVES have been saved !!!!! He guided the Task Force in establishing their first strategic planning session, resulting in a final plan and has been instrumental in working with all of the law enforcement agencies, courts, and victim advocates to ensure continued successes in their efforts in reducing serious injuries and traffic related deaths. This effort mirrors the Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan "Target Zero".

Chief Davis is highly respected by his peers, is known for his strong leadership skills and is second to none in his commitment to traffic safety. He truly deserves consideration for this award.

5/ Proven Strategies

Strategic planning, multi jurisdictional emphasis patrols, school zone flashing lights, achieving additional FTE committed to traffic enforcement, reduction on traffic collisions, reduction of traffic fatalities, increased in DUI arrests certainly meet the established criteria of the required submission for this award.